



# ***Daily Report***

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## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

FBIS-AFR-95-076  
Thursday  
20 April 1995

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# Daily Report

## Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-95-076

### CONTENTS

20 April 1995

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#### CENTRAL AFRICA

##### Burundi

Hutu Leader Condemns French Military Aid [LIBERATION 19 Apr] .....	1
Opposition Party Denies Setting Up Tutsi Militia [Bujumbura Radio] .....	2
Interior Minister: Peace Campaign 'Encouraging' [Bujumbura Radio] .....	2

##### Equatorial Guinea

Government Communique 'Denounces' Spanish Attitude [Malabo Radio] .....	2
Radio on Spanish, U.S. Involvement [AFP] .....	3
Report on Moto's Request for U.S. Intervention [Madrid EL MUNDO 19 Apr] .....	3
Political Detainees Deny Physical Torture [Malabo Radio] .....	4

#### REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nzo Speaks on NPT Extension at Treaty Conference [SAPA] .....	5
F. W. de Klerk Discusses GNU, Other Issues [THE STAR 19 Apr] .....	5
Winnie Mandela Reportedly in 'Good Health' [SAPA] .....	7
South African Press Review for 19 Apr [THE STAR 19 Apr, etc.] .....	7
South African Press Review for 20 Apr [THE STAR 20 Apr, etc.] .....	8

#### SOUTHERN AFRICA

##### Angola

UNITA Radio Reports Continued FAA Troop Movement [Jamba Voz da Resistencia] .....	9
---	---

##### Mozambique

Amodeg Soldiers Block Street Outside Assembly .....	9
Demand Reintegration Into Society [Maputo Radio] .....	9
Police Reopen Street; 8 Wounded [Maputo Radio] .....	10
Soldiers Block Road in Nampula [Maputo Radio] .....	10
Paper Views Frelimo Attempt to 'Absorb' Renamo [IMPARCIAL 6 Apr] .....	10

#### WEST AFRICA

##### The Gambia

Senegal Ties 'Souring' Over Border Problems [London International] .....	12
--	----

##### Liberia

UN: Frequent Massacres Occurring Nationwide [AFP] .....	12
---	----

##### Niger

Opposition Threatens To Boycott Parliament [London International] .....	13
---	----

**Nigeria**

Oil Minister, Iranian Ambassador on Cooperation [Lagos TV] .....	13
Radio on Abacha Interview, Coup Plot [Lagos Radio] .....	13

**Senegal**

French Troops Join Hunt for Missing Couples [AFP] .....	13
---	----

**Sierra Leone**

'Peace Conference' Begins Without Government [London International] .....	14
---	----

## Burundi

### Hutu Leader Condemns French Military Aid

BR1904145595 Paris *LIBERATION* in French 19 Apr 95  
p 10

[Report on interview with Hutu leader Leonard Nyangoma by Stephen Smith from Nyangoma's "hiding place"; date not given: "Leonard Nyangoma, a Burundian Minister Turned Guerilla Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The last time he went across his country's border, when leaving Burundi on 27 March 1994, he was interior minister and minister for public security. Putschists belonging to the "Tutsi mono-ethnic" army had just killed the country's first democratically elected president—a Hutu—, Melchior Ndadaye, whose successor, Cyprien Ntaryamira, was to die shortly thereafter with Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana on board of a plane that was shot down on 6 April. Today Leonard Nyangoma has been organizing guerrilla rebels. The leader of the "armed gangs" which have been fighting "the Tutsis' covert coup," he is thought of as the warlord of extremist Hutus.

From his hiding place, Leonard Nyangoma protests: "We must do away with all this talk of moderates and extremists." A criticism directed at, among others, French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre. "Not only has he been dealing with putschists who were never tried and who have confiscated power, but he also calls them 'lawful.' In whose name does he think he can do that? The Army, which has been at war against the population, kills more people every day and has just completed the ethnic cleansing of the last mixed neighborhoods. France has been helping the Army through military cooperation, which we want suspended."

Paris currently has 27 military advisers in Bujumbura and, "with a view to maintaining order through democratic means," has increased its aid three-fold. In the early 1990's, French aid totalled some 4 million French francs [Fr] a year. In the last 18 months, Fr9 million have been granted for training and outfitting five gendarmerie brigades, to which must be added Fr7 million earmarked for the purchase of 27 vehicles as well as Fr1 million already budgeted for the purchase of rifles and telescopic sights for a future antiterrorist group. France trained and still supervises the Unit for the Security of Institutions, consisting of about 500 men responsible for protecting the regime's dignitaries—both Hutu and Tutsi. According to Leonard Nyangoma, current President Sylvestre Ntibantuganya—a "moderate" Hutu backed by France—"does no longer stand for anything" as he is "the Army's hostage in Bujumbura" and his friends from the Burundi Democratic Front [FRODEBU], the Hutu-dominated party, "are under house arrest in their ministries." In addition, with the FRODEBU's—clandestine—first steps now a distant memory, he allegedly has few partisans left. Another statement, confirmed by foreign diplomats: Out of the FRODEBU's 65

MP's, about 50 are loyal to Nyangoma. This is hardly surprising. Born in 1953 in southern Burundi, a region where the three Tutsi military dictators who ruled the country from 1966 to 1993 also originated, mathematics professor Leonard Nyangoma was the man responsible for the FRODEBU's victory at the polls. After being appointed deputy secretary general of the old trade union, he settled in Bujumbura and patiently wove his web under the old regime. His big break came on 15 January 1991, when the FRODEBU, founded in 1986 and gambling on democratization, finally came out in the open.

After being forced into agreeing to a multi-party system, Major Pierre Buyoya had no choice but to give his assent to free elections in June 1993. Thanks to Melchior Ndadaye's charisma and Leonard Nyangoma's organizational skills, the FRODEBU won the election with 65 percent of the votes. A parliamentary election organized shortly thereafter was even more of a triumph for the party, which garnered 72 percent of the votes. "FRODEBU MP's owe their seat to me and they will not forget it." Although he is but a rebel today, Leonard Nyangoma knows he still has control of the party he led to victory. Unfortunately, power in the country can only be conquered by force of arms. One hundred days after he was sworn in, President Ndadaye as well as other FRODEBU officials were killed by putschists belonging to the Army, whose high command is 95 percent Tutsi.

"Today Burundi is in a state of civil war. As a last resort, we had to fight," Leonard Nyangoma explains, whose Forces for the Defense of Democracy allegedly are "present on the whole national territory." However, in the presence of Christian Sendegeya, former—Tutsi—president of the National Assembly, he adds: "This is no Hutu liberation fight. We are fighting to restore democracy in the interest of all Burundian citizens alike." Nevertheless, after the genocide perpetrated against Tutsis in neighboring Rwanda, can the minority afford to trust such discourses? In Burundi, after the October 1993 murder of "their" president, Hutu farmers started slaughtering Tutsis in the hills. Thousands thus died until the Army intervened to "restore order" by killing just as many people belonging to the opposite camp...

As a proof of his good faith, Leonard Nyangoma rejects any notion of "joining forces" with Rwanda's Hutu extremists, those responsible for the genocide who are now refugees in Zaire. "We do buy weapons from them, but apart from that, each one fights for his own cause. There is no such thing as a Hutu International in the region." On the other hand, Nyangoma says that "Kigali's arrogant Tutsi regime has been meddling with Burundian affairs," and even that "the Rwandan Patriotic Front's Army has been conducting operations in the northern regions of our country," and that it "sends its young militiamen to our capital." Confronted with this "Kigali-Bujumbura axis," will the Burundian guerrillas—unexperienced, without financial backers, and



without any sanctuary to call their own apart from eastern Zaire and Tanzania's border area—hesitate long before they open their ranks to their revengeful Rwandan brothers? "We are ready to participate in negotiations," Leonard Nyangoma says, "as soon as the Burundian Army lays down arms and agrees to reforms."

#### **Opposition Party Denies Setting Up Tutsi Militia**

EA1904160495 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a press communique released yesterday by the Executive Bureau of the Party for National Recovery, Parena [party of former President Bagaza], the party reiterated that it had neither created nor maintained any Tutsi militia and that the party had always asked for the total and unconditional dismantling of all the militias as a prerequisite for any kind of return to peace. The communique indicated that it was unfair to liken Parena to CNDD [National Council for the Defense of Democracy].

#### **Interior Minister: Peace Campaign 'Encouraging'**

EA1904161195 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Gabriel Sinarinzi, the minister of interior and public security, has taken stock of the campaign aimed at restoring peace in Burundi, its results thus far, and accusations against [former President] Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and [the People's Reconciliation Party's president] Mathias Hitimana on the arming of Tutsi militias. I suggest you listen to Minister Sinarinzi:

[Begin Sinarinzi recording] The awareness campaign to restore peace began on 7 April in Cankuzo Province. It was launched by the president of the Republic. Immediately afterwards government members, National Assembly members, and political party officials went to the country's provinces to start their campaigns. Out of 15 provinces, 11 started campaigning immediately. Now campaigning in all the provinces is taking place, except for Muyinga Province where difficulties have arisen at the administrative level—government members due to travel there were busy elsewhere.

In general terms, the campaign is taking place normally. There is no doubt that in some places certain officials such as party members and National Assembly members have failed to turn up, but as of now one can say that the campaign is taking place normally. As far as the results are concerned, I think these are encouraging. In the field, it is clear that the population is obeying the peace messages. It is clear that the administrative authorities are cooperating directly with the security forces and the population to denounce warmongers or even to arrest wrongdoers, and to disarm these armed gangs which have a tendency to set themselves up in certain localities. I can thus say that in general terms the campaign could

be successful if all the political partners get involved. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### **Equatorial Guinea**

#### **Government Communique 'Denounces' Spanish Attitude**

AB1904192695 Malabo Radio Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial Network in Spanish 0600 GMT 19 Apr 95

[Government communique; place and date not given—read by unidentified official]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which instituted a new regime of civil liberties on 3 August 1979, has abolished the dictatorship imposed on the Equatorial Guinean people—one of the most ferocious tyrannies that marked mankind for 11 years. During that period, the diplomatic and cooperative relations with the Kingdom of Spain were severed [words indistinct] Spain and what is connected with the Spanish. That archaic regime was protected in an institutional way in all the organizations of the country. Also, during that period of tyranny, the most elementary rights of Equatorial Guineans and foreigners were violated, but Spain did not show any concern over the violation of Equatorial Guinean people's rights and liberties. On the contrary, Spain—under the pretext of reservation principle—let this tragic situation continue in the country.

The replacement of that dictatorial regime resulted in the establishment and protection of human rights in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea—not only the human rights of Equatorial Guineans but also those of foreigners residing in the country. It also resulted in the reestablishment of diplomatic and cooperative relations (?with Spain) as part of the fundamental principles of public international law. These principles allow for cooperation among states, but without interference in others' political affairs as a result of the prerogatives involved in the independence and sovereignty they have achieved. Equatorial Guinea became an independent and sovereign state on 12 October 1968. As of that date, Spain lost its international supervision over Equatorial Guinea and ceased to rule the country.

The new political regime that assumed power on 3 August 1979 considered Spain as a privileged country in terms of its cooperation relations. However, despite all this, Equatorial Guinea has not received the expected advantages from this relationship. What we have observed is Spain's intention to delay Equatorial Guinea's development and the use of international pressure to suspend all the programs meant for the Equatorial Guinean people's development. This was done under the pretext that human rights are not respected and democracy is not making progress.

The Spanish Government and people ignore and forget that during the first 11 long years of independence, not

only were human rights systematically violated in Equatorial Guinea without any intervention or publication of these violations in the Spanish media, but the Spanish themselves lost all their goods through confiscations, expulsions, and massive evacuation of Spanish citizens culminating in the severing of diplomatic ties.

The Spanish Government and its people ignore that the country has 14 parties and during the short and medium term program of Equatorial Guinea's political transition, it has not received any assistance or financial aid from Spain to carry out its political transitional process. Now, the Spanish Government and people, far from reconsidering its negative attitude toward Equatorial Guinea and recognizing the right place of the country during the last four years of our political transition, has been carrying out, through all its media, an official and systematic campaign of disinformation and intoxication of the international public opinion, which is false and contrary to the realities in our country, with clearly hidden interests.

In this context, the Equatorial Guinea Government has learned from direct and reliable sources that the Spanish Government has been offering official and particular support to the radical parties belonging to the so-called Joint Opposition Platform as an instrument to destabilize the country. Through the same reliable sources, the Equatorial Guinea Government has learned of a new Spanish Government plan to recruit and organize a mercenary force of ex-Equatorial Guinean soldiers resident in Spain and within the country with the aim of carrying out a military operation against the sovereignty, the territorial integrity, and the people of Equatorial Guinea.

The Equatorial Guinea Government has been enduring this sequence of harassments in the sole interest of normalizing relations, which we think must be preferential as a result of the historical circumstances and the mutual ties of both peoples. The Equatorial Guinea Government has observed that this interest has not been reciprocated by Spain. On the contrary, we are receiving threats of military aggression, economic blockade, defamation, and international discreditation. Lamentably, Equatorial Guineans are suffering the damages and injuries of this action for which only the Spanish state is responsible.

In the light of this, the Equatorial Guinea Government strongly denounces the Spanish attitude toward the Equatorial Guinea people before the international community and condemns categorically the threat of military aggression which Spain is presently preparing, and for the sufferings imposed by Spain on the noble people of Equatorial Guinea, the Equatorial Guinea Government demands the payment of indemnities and the restoration of honor equal to the reputation of the Equatorial Guinean people and government and that henceforth Spain should stop its policy of harassment and groundless propaganda against Equatorial Guinea's people and state institutions. Thank You.

#### Radio on Spanish, U.S. Involvement

AB1904121595 Paris AFP in French 0810 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Libreville, 19 Apr (AFP)—The Equatorial Guinea Government yesterday accused Spain of "planning a military aggression against the government and people of Equatorial Guinea."

In a statement read on the official Radio Malabo and monitored in Libreville, the government also blamed Madrid, its former colonial power, of "interfering very dangerously in the domestic affairs" of Equatorial Guinea and of "supporting the radical opposition." This accusation referred to the intervention of the Spanish Government for the release of one of the country's main opposition leaders, Severo Moto, who was sentenced in early March to 18 months in jail for complicity in the subornation of a police commissioner, and for slandering the head of state, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

According to Radio Malabo, Mr. Moto will be tried a second time over the next few days for trying to kidnap President Obiang, with "the approval" of the United States. The 156-page prosecution file is ready, the official radio added, during a cast that lasted several hours and which was almost mainly devoted to diatribe against Spain and the radical opposition.

The radio also carried its usual allegations against Madrid which, according to "reliable sources, is doing everything to block European assistance to Equatorial Guinea." The radio did not give any further details on these "reliable sources."

#### Report on Moto's Request for U.S. Intervention

BR1904140595 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Apr 95 p 24

[Report by Ana Romero: "Moto Admits in Writing That He Requested the United States To Stage Haiti-Like Intervention in Guinea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Madrid—Theodore Obiang still has a trump left to try to get rid of Severo Moto.

This marked card is a statement, written and signed by Moto under pressure, in which the imprisoned political leader admits that he requested the United States to intervene in Equatorial Guinea as it did in Kuwait or Haiti.

According to opposition forces contacted in Malabo, the Progress Party chairman informed his defending counsels last week that he had signed the document under duress while imprisoned at the Black Beach penitentiary.

The basis for this false confession is Moto's visit to the U.S. State Department last fall. During his stay in Washington from 21 to 24 November, Moto met Central Africa Bureau Director Arleen Render as well as the

person in charge of the department dealing with Equatorial Guinea, desk officer Mary Beth Leonard.

U.S. diplomatic sources consulted by our newspaper say these two women are not high-ranking officials. Moreover, the meeting in question was "routine" and merely "for information purposes." During the meeting, as Moto himself explained while in Spain, he only spoke to these officials about his country's transition to democracy.

Moto's defending counsels want to prevent at all costs this surrealistic statement "made under duress" from being used in the court-martial which is expected to start tomorrow in Malabo. [passage omitted]

### Political Detainees Deny Physical Torture

AB1904225495 Malabo Radio Nacional de Guinea  
Ecuatorial Network in Spanish 0600 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ex-Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Esono Masie and Major Leoncio Esono Micha, commandant of the Ekuku Military Academy, are in good health in the Black Beach Public Prison and have never been ill-treated or tortured. In statements to the Equatorial Guinean Radio and Television, the two detainees say that their only concern is that they are far away from their families, adding that reports that they were ill-treated and tortured are false. Let us listen to the statements made by the detainees in the prison yesterday:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] First, we would like to question Mr. Masie. Please, Mr. Masie, would you like to come close to the microphone. Good morning!

[Masie] Good morning!

[Correspondent] Mr. Masie, how are you?

[Masie] Physically, I am pretty well, but of course, as a human being, I can say that I have moral problems, nothing else.

[Correspondent] Currently, you are detained here, and reports carried by the external service of Radio de Espana say that you cannot get up because you are seriously tortured, your feet are particularly injured,

destroyed. Your arms are also affected, let us say, nearly amputated. What could you tell us, representatives of the media, about all that?

[Masie] I am detained here [words indistinct] and (?I don't know why). Whatever people say, I am morally affected by the fact that I am currently cut off from my family. I do not know what is happening outside simply because I have been cut off from my family for long. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] So, definitely you have not been tortured at all?

[Masie] Tortured? To tell the truth, no.

[Correspondent] Mr. Micha, I hope that you will frankly tell us how you feel?

[Micha] Physically, I am well, but psychologically, I am not fine, because actually I don't know exactly why I am here. Anyway, I hope justice will take its normal course and I hope that all these problems will be solved.

[Correspondent] In your case, the information circulating now says that you have been physically tortured to such an extent that you cannot get up. And we believe that the only reliable source who can tell the truth is you. Now, have you been tortured and ill-treated physically?

[Micha] Physically, no, but psychologically, yes. And that is normal, because when you are detained you suffer morally. But to be frank, I have not been physically tortured so far.

[Correspondent] Now, (?how have you managed) to come (?to this room)? Were you brought here or did you walk?

[Micha] I (?walked). I still walk. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Do you have anything else to add?

[Micha] I simply hope that justice will be fair, nothing else.

[Masie] I also hope that justice will solve this problem so that the truth is known and our innocence proved. This will help us regain our freedom. That is all I want to say. Thank you. [passage omitted] [end recording]



**Nzo Speaks on NPT Extension at Treaty Conference**

MB2004065395 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2237  
GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg April 19 SAPA—South Africa firmly believed that a mechanism had to be found to address concerns surrounding the implementation of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty. Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said in New York on Wednesday [19 April].

Speaking at a review conference of the parties to the treaty, Mr Nzo said this could be done by adopting a set of principles for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament which would be taken into account when implementation of the treaty was reviewed.

A copy of Mr Nzo's speech was released to SAPA in Johannesburg. He said the principles would set out the general obligations and goals which parties would strive for, and take into account the present international environment "which is very different from that which existed when the treaty was negotiated".

Mr Nzo said the principles would not be an amendment of the treaty but rather focus attention on the importance of its goals. Commitment to the principles would be renewed at every review to ensure they were dynamic and adapted to changing international circumstances.

"It is our fundamental belief that the treaty...should not be placed in jeopardy and that the review and extension process should strengthen, not weaken, the non-proliferation regime. We firmly hold the view that the security of individual countries, like ourselves, and of the international community as a whole would be severely damaged if the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] were to be weakened."

South Africa had taken the decision to destroy its nuclear weapons and become a party to the NPT because it saw its security being guaranteed by the treaty's provisions. It was for this reason South Africa had become an active sponsor of an African Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

Supporting the view that the NPT should be extended indefinitely, Mr Nzo said termination of the treaty—whether this came about by placing conditions on its future existence or by extending it only for a fixed period—was not an acceptable option.

Democratic South Africa saw international and regional security being achieved by complete nuclear disarmament.

"The NPT provides us in Africa and the international community with greater security than did the nuclear weapons which we have destroyed," he said.

"Southern Africa until very recently was in a state of conflict, war and destabilisation and nuclear weapons

were thought to be providing security. I believe that the South African experience—namely that security is provided by nuclear disarmament rather than by nuclear proliferation—is a telling one not only for the 'threshold' states but also for the 'acknowledged' weapon states."

**F. W. de Klerk Discusses GNU, Other Issues**

MB1904101195 Johannesburg THE STAR in English  
19 Apr 95 p 13

[Interview with Deputy President F. W. de Klerk by political editor Kaizer Nyatumba and political correspondent Patrick Bulger; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His assessment of the Government's performance so far.

For all of us who participate in the Government of National Unity [GNU] it was a new experience. From the National Party's [NP] side a new experience to serve in what is essentially a coalition government and for the ANC the first time it is bearing the responsibility of governing. For the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] also a first time in a government at national level.

I think we succeeded very well in developing a good working relationship, in establishing conventions for the operation of the Cabinet and a Cabinet system of Cabinet committees reporting back to Cabinet, which works well.

We have succeeded in avoiding party politics to interfere with the ordinary day-to-day discussion and find that there is a free flow of discussion and ideas quite often differences among Cabinet members from the same party on practical issues. The same does not apply when it comes to a few fundamental issues where parties take up very strong positions also in public debates. There we have thus far succeeded to bridge our fundamental differences by reaching compromises for joint decisions. Overall, therefore I think we have performed rather well. On whether the GNU is delivering:

That is another aspect of the public debate. I think that expectations were too high in that regard and would add my voice to all those who caution against the public expecting too much too soon. I think we have made two important breakthroughs which will ensure delivery at a reasonable pace at a reasonable time. The first is that early on we agreed on an economic policy framework which will be investor-friendly which will ensure that we create the right circumstances for sustained economic growth. On the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program]:

The second breakthrough was that we agreed on what I prefer to call a new Reconstruction and Development Programme which is a programme of the GNU and not just of one party. The RDP has become the centerpiece of the GNU's delivery programme. It aims to be well co-ordinated, well managed, cost effective and properly prioritised. Some time has been spent, but I believe well



spent, on a consultative process, because one needs to have wide support for such an ambitious programme. **On affirmative action:**

Here I would just like to dispel the notion and the perception that has been created from certain quarters that the NP is against affirmative action. It simply isn't true. We are saying that affirmative action must be implemented in such a way that firstly it doesn't destabilise the career prospects of those who are in service that secondly it must not result in a reverse form of racial discrimination and thirdly that if one looks at the employment of young South Africans irrespective of their race or colour then one cannot accept a situation where the quality of your results at university or technician or school is ignored and you are discriminated against. Therefore, yes, we say there must be an active programme and it must be balanced. **On whether he is happy with the NP's performance:**

The NP obviously had to go through a period of adaptation immediately after the election. It went through a difficult period—that is something of the past. We are very focused as a party at the moment, we are motivated for the coming municipal elections. We are proud about the constructive role we are playing in the GNU and the various governments of provincial unity—and politically we experience strong interest from a significant number of people across the country who didn't vote for us in the election.

We believe in our growth potential and we are committed as a non-racial party built on values to extend our power base. **On his adjustment to his new position:**

As far as my position as deputy president is concerned, obviously I also had to go through a period of adaptation. I was psychologically relatively well prepared for it. Some stresses and strains did arise at times. Fortunately, we have emerged from these incidents a little stronger each time.

There is a good working relationship between the president and the executive deputy presidents. I find fulfilment in what I do within the Government. I find that what I do is meaningful and almost on a daily basis I am constructively involved with the help also of Cabinet colleagues. **On power-sharing beyond 1999:**

Yes, we firmly believe that five years is not long enough to effectively stabilise the country and ensure long-term stability and long-term peace. For many reasons we believe that in some form or another—we are not married to the exact present composition of the GNU—we must take the concept of joint decision-making by major political role-players on fundamental issues at the level of the executives further into the future beyond 1999. **On the possibility of entering into temporary alliances in the constitution-making process:**

We are not approaching the constitution-writing process from an alliance viewpoint; we're approaching it from an issue viewpoint.

Our attitude is that we would like to identify with all parties those issues on which we are in agreement so that we can, in a constructive manner, develop proposals which are more inclusive with regard to those specific issues. The issues will differ from party to party. **On SA's final constitution:**

In the final analysis no constitution can be accepted without the ANC also accepting it. No constitution can be accepted without a two-thirds majority and that is where the balance will have to be struck. The best possible constitution will be one that could be accepted unanimously. That is the ideal and I think that should be the purpose of negotiation. As to whether that can be achieved is another question. I don't think it's impossible. **On the absence of blacks in top positions in the NP:**

Black South Africans are in a democratic process establishing themselves in leadership positions within the party structures. We only have a limited number of Cabinet posts available. We've developed a system of chief spokespersons and there many of our talented black and brown members of our caucus are playing a very good role. They themselves tell us: "Please stay away from tokenism". **His assessment of the president's performance so far:**

Generally speaking I think he has a tremendous task on his shoulders and he carries a tremendous responsibility. I have very high appreciation for what he is doing to achieve peace and reconciliation and in selling South Africa, and very particularly his maintaining the cohesion within the GNU by adhering to the spirit of consultation and seeking consensus. I am therefore positive. Inasmuch as I have criticism on specific issues I will reserve that for private discussions with him. **On Mbeki as heir-apparent to President Mandela:**

I don't want to involve myself in the leadership stakes of the ANC. I can say that as the Cabinet system has developed the two of us work very closely and very well together. I didn't know him well beforehand and I've developed a lot of respect for him and we get along fine. **On Chief Buthelezi's performance in the GNU:**

Because he is not an executive deputy president his role is somewhat different. At times he is specially consulted by the presidency in recognition of his position as the leader of the third biggest party in the GNU's. In that process I have always found him in Government matters to be co-operative, constructive and he is punctual and he is performing well in his role as Minister of Home Affairs. **On the first dismissal of Winnie Mandela:**

From the GNU's point of view it was a delicate situation. I did not interfere but I am glad that the President took decisive action because the uncertainty was to my mind damaging to the country as a whole. **On whether he has regrets about the course he took for the country:**

None of the fundamental decisions I would have taken differently. What I now know with hindsight, I might

have changed some of the strategies and would have done certain things differently. But the decisions taken on the basis of principle as to where we should be going, of what we should move away from, that would not be different at all and I have no regrets. I would have done it all over again.

**Winnie Mandela Reportedly in 'Good Health'**

MB1904132795 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1311  
GMT 19 Apr 95

[Report by Elias Maluleke]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg April 19 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela's estranged wife Winnie Mandela has had no visitors—except for immediate family members—since being admitted to the Linksfield clinic in Orange Grove, Johannesburg, on Tuesday [18 April].

A source at the clinic said her only visitors have been her daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. The clinic had expected a stream of prominent African National Congress and allied leaders to visit her—but none had shown up, the source said.

President Mandela was on Wednesday still resting in Qunu, in the former Transkei homeland. Mrs Mandela was not expected to leave the Linksfield clinic in Orange Grove until Friday, according to the source. She was, however, given a clean bill of health after undergoing a thorough medical examination on Tuesday shortly after her admission in the morning.

The clinic said then Mrs Mandela had been admitted for a general medical examination. It is widely believed that she was suffering from stress, which had been caused by events of the past month in her ongoing battle with her husband.

The clinic was not authorised to make public announcements on Mrs Mandela's condition and stay at the clinic, and only family members could do so, the source said. A brief statement from the clinic on Tuesday stated that Mrs Mandela's doctor was satisfied that she was in good health "at present". When the examination was complete, her family would issue a further statement to the press "if necessary".

Mrs Mandela's lawyers, Seriti, Mavundla and Partners in Pretoria, did not want to take calls relating to Mrs Mandela on Wednesday.

Mrs Mandela's sudden admission to the clinic came a day after she had addressed a press conference at her Soweto mansion where she announced her resignation as deputy minister for arts, culture, science and technology. Her departure from the post, from which she was sacked by her estranged husband for the second time last Friday, was to have taken effect on Tuesday.

Mrs Mandela came in for criticism from her African National Congress and South African Communist Party

[SACP] colleagues during SACP general secretary Chris Hani's tombstone unveiling ceremony at the Elspark cemetery at the weekend, where she was accused of colluding with dubious politicians to advance her career.

She was also cold-shouldered by the ANC/SACP leadership during the ceremony at which she arrived late. She was also the first to leave—in a brand new luxury German sedan.

Mr Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, on Wednesday said the president was expected to return to the Gauteng Province from Transkei on Friday. As far as he was aware, Mr Mandela had not made plans to visit his estranged wife. "I also do not know of any member of the ANC (other than immediate family members) who has visited her."

**South African Press Review for 19 Apr**

MB1904093095

[FBIS Editorial Report]

**THE STAR**

Winnie Mandela 'Playing to the Gallery'—Referring to former Arts, Culture, Science, and Technology Minister Winnie Mandela's resignation Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 19 April in a page 12 editorial says she is "playing to the gallery and being deliberately vexatious" which is "leading to absurdities." As for her seeking reasons for her first dismissal, THE STAR says President Mandela does not owe her an explanation but she is reminded that "she has undermined the Government of National Unity, has ignored requests and instructions and has caused disunity within the ANC." "She's not wanted in the Government and that's that."

**SOWETAN**

ANC Must Clarify 'Limits of Dissent' to Party Members—Apart from the general "brouhaha" surrounding Winnie Mandela's dismissal from office, her confrontation with President Mandela "emphasises the need for the ANC, as the leading party in Government and a major force in transforming South Africa into a democracy, to clarify the limits of dissent to party members." The ANC must decide "how far its members can criticise it publicly," but it shouldn't mean leading members of the organization should "surrender" their "right to speak their mind."

**BUSINESS DAY**

Peace in Angola Benefits Subcontinent—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 19 April in a page 8 editorial believes all moves toward peace in Angola should be encouraged by South Africa since a settlement reached in Angola will "allow the region as a whole to move ahead with plans for the kind of cohesive trade bloc which will restore faith and attract foreign plant and capital." "It is up to South Africa and its neighbours" to prompt further rapprochement to ensure National

Union for the Total Independence of Angola leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos "avoid the headstrong attitudes and prejudices of the past" and convince them of the "benefits for all of stability in the subcontinent."

**South African Press Review for 20 Apr**  
MB2004122095

[FBIS Editorial Report]

**THE STAR**

Limited Response to Nuclear Contamination—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 20 April in a page 14 editorial criticizes the government's "laissez-faire attitude" regarding the thirty sites that have been identified by the Council for Nuclear Safety, CNS, in Gauteng, the Orange Free State, and the Northwest Province. The full extent of the contamination is not known and THE STAR believes the mining industry "has behaved appallingly" since "it must have been aware of the potential for contamination long before 1993" when the Nuclear Energy Act was enacted. To add to the "general concern" is the fact that the CNS, the "public watchdog on nuclear safety," "does not have the funds to deal effectively with the problem."

**SOWETAN**

Call for Extension of Voter Registration—"The Government should think very seriously about postponing the registration cut-off date," declares a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 20 April. "Without registration there can be no local elections and a process which started so splendidly at national level could be aborted."

**BUSINESS DAY**

Need To Privatize Airports—According to a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English

on 20 April, "experts" reckon that South Africa's airports "need to spend R1bn [rands] over the next few years to bring them up to a standard that might attract a private buyer." BUSINESS DAY says this is a "dangerously narrow focus." State resources may be spent "with no guarantee of airports becoming more efficient or profitable." If the airports were to be privatized immediately, "funds would quickly become available for the necessary capital expenditure and, instead of the four-year moratorium on dividend payments to the state, profitable airport operators would be paying taxes."

**CITY PRESS**

Violence Hurting Economy—Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 16 April in a page 16 editorial points out that without a healthy economy "all the sweet-sounding words about democracy will mean nothing." "Already we face Everests in the abnormally high unemployment rate and critically low education standards. We cannot allow the dragon of violence to further worsen these two critical areas—from where our economic growth must germinate." If the country fails to heed this, "with or without Nelson Mandela leading our 'rainbow people', we are doomed to becoming another failed African country."

ANC 'Uncertainty'—In an article on the same page Professor Themba Sono, director of the Center for Development Analysis, writes: "The hiring, firing, rehiring and refiring of Winnie Mandela is symptomatic of a basic malaise in the ANC. There is a definite pattern of ambiguity, uncertainty, unclarity, unprofessionalism, and (even) unfairness in the administration of things." Sono asks whether this could be "signs of the Banana Republic syndrome?" Firing Winnie Mandela "was not a prudent move," but refiring her has "left an even more negative profile of the government of national unity and ANC!"



## Angola

### UNITA Radio Reports Continued FAA Troop Movement

MB1904131995 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo  
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Angolan Government continues to move military equipment and men throughout the country for war purposes. Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel [Vorgan] sources reports a motorized column, including soldiers and war materiel such as armored cars, left Luanda and arrived in the city of Malanje recently to reinforce the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] troops that had already been deployed there.

Now that it has received these reinforcements, the FAA Command for Malanje Province is on orders to capture important National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]-controlled positions in the province before the Blue Helmets arrive in Angola. [passage omitted]

The situation is not very different in Cuando Cubango Province. Contrary to remarks by the FAA chief of General Staff that the peace accord is being served, the FAA troops continue to follow the warpath. Reliable sources have told Vorgan a FAA tactical group left Menongue, the capital of Cuando Cubango District, on 13 April for the area of Cuito Cuanavale, where it arrived on 15 April. The column included BMP-2 combat vehicles and it carried war materiel and soldiers. [passage omitted]

## Mozambique

### Amodeg Soldiers Block Street Outside Assembly

#### Demand Reintegration Into Society

MB1904120295 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network  
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Apr 95

[Report by Emilio Manhique from the Palace of the Congress in Maputo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proceedings of the Assembly of the Republic continued this morning. As had happened yesterday, there was a strong police presence around the building. At the start of the proceedings today, Assembly Chairman Eduardo Mulembwe briefed the deputies on the already famous Association of War Demobilized Personnel [Amodeg] case.

[Begin Mulembwe recording] First, I would like to inform your excellencies that a handwritten note reached me on 4 April, when we were in session. It came from Mr. Julio Nhamuirre, the illustrious and most committed president of Amodeg. The message read as follows: I would like to request a few minutes to speak to the deputies. I would like to make a speech.

At the time, we did not have any idea what the content of that speech might be, so the Assembly of the Republic Standing Commission members thought it convenient to pass the matter on for discussion by the Assembly at its scheduled meeting on 13 April. We conveyed that information to Amodeg President Mr. Nhamuirre. We indicated that the Assembly chairman would receive him and his team as soon as he had the time, so he could grasp the nature of their request.

In view of the fact that it was not possible for the Assembly to meet on 13 April as scheduled, and because of my own busy schedule, I received Mr. Nhamuirre and three other Amodeg members on 14 April. Only then did they give us a copy of the aforementioned speech. At the time, I thought the main request was that the Assembly should legislate immediately on the issue of the demobilized soldiers. Their intention was that the Assembly should discuss the matter immediately. Thus, the Assembly had to stop its proceedings to produce a law on demobilized military personnel.

I took the opportunity to tell them that the issue featured on the agenda of the Assembly and that it was to be discussed yesterday, among other issues proposed by the Standing Commission. After discussing the issue, the Standing Commission thought it fit to say that those are current problems and that the government is making efforts to settle them. In view of that, the Standing Commission found that the best solution was not to allow the Amodeg president to read his speech in Parliament but, rather, to submit that speech to the future Social Affairs Commission, which must analyze it so it can consider the problems faced by demobilized soldiers every day. We conveyed this to the Amodeg president yesterday. Unfortunately, he came alone. We understood that in addition to a speech to the Assembly, perhaps his real intention was to have the Assembly chairman cancel the allegedly undue tax the People's Development Bank is deducting from their pay. In addition to that, the Assembly chairman was supposed to immediately provide facilities, transportation, and personal protection for the Amodeg president. Those were the real reasons behind the request and we said it was not up to us to assure protection for people, that there are specific institutions to deal with the other problems, and all we could do was to analyze Amodeg's concerns at an appropriate time. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the demobilized soldiers blocked Angola Avenue, in front of the Amodeg headquarters. They demanded that the government reintegrate them into civilian society. Julio Nhamuirre had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Nhamuirre] The government has the tendency to (?kill) everybody. I have come here to talk with the demobilized soldiers. [passage omitted]

We are trying to do the best we can in view of the situation we are in. We want to know how many demobilized soldiers are here.

[Unidentified correspondent] There was talk of contacts with demobilized Renamo soldiers to tell them not to allow anybody to disarm them. Did you manage to get in touch with them?

[Nhamuirre] No, I cannot comment on that. I think what we are doing here [words indistinct] the commission itself. [end recording] [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that the demobilized soldiers had planned to attack and occupy the Assembly of the Republic building and other buildings housing state institutions. Meanwhile, Amodeg is meeting to plan the next move.

### Police Reopen Street; 8 Wounded

MB1904150395 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police have reopened Angola Avenue in the city of Maputo, which was blocked today by a group from the Association of War Demobilized Personnel [Amodeg]. The road was reopened when the Rapid Intervention Police, PIR, intervened, wounding eight demobilized soldiers when they fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the demonstrators. Meanwhile, President Joaquim Chissano said no one wants to resume war in the country. The head of state was reacting to reports by Amodeg members that demobilized Mozambique National Resistance soldiers possess firearms and should keep the weapons. President Chissano also said he does not understand why demobilized soldiers are trying to force the Assembly of the Republic to rule on their behalf when the deputies now are discussing their installation to assess the country's major problems in depth.

### Soldiers Block Road in Nampula

MB1904190095 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estevao de Fatima, Nampula Provincial Amodeg [Association of War Demobilized Personnel] secretary, was detained this afternoon in connection with the riot staged by demobilized soldiers. During the riot, the demobilized soldiers blocked the avenue leading to their association's provincial headquarters. Police immediately intervened to disperse the demonstrators, detaining their provincial secretary and an unspecified number of demobilized soldiers.

In Sofala Province, the Amodeg provincial secretary says the demands made by their counterparts in Maputo are justified because the central government is being insensitive in the resolution of their problems. However, they said they will not stage demonstrations because they are happy with moves by the provincial government to reintegrate them in social activities. Sofala Province Governor Felisberto Tomas informed the Amodeg Secretariat in a meeting that some demobilized soldiers will be employed in the renovation of Gorongosa Park.

### Paper Views Frelimo Attempt to 'Absorb' Renamo

MB1804104995 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese 6 Apr 95 P 2

[Article by Migueis Lopes Junior in the "Political Analysis" column: "Tell me the truth with your lies"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The "lie" printed by that "most official" of newspapers, NOTICIAS, on 1 April was that the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] Party is involved in contacts with the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] for an eventual fusion of the two.

One proverb has it that "you mislead me with the truth", but perhaps the proverb that applies here is the one which says: "Tell me the truth with your lies."

NOTICIAS is a daily newspaper which recently saw the conclusion of an operation of rigorous political submission to the majority party. This followed a long 20-year process to replace competence with obedience in its ranks. It is a newspaper where even isolated bits of criticism are carefully planned and controlled so as not to exceed the limits of the innocuous. Very little is left to chance. Far from being a subconscious slip, that "April Fools' lie" carries a concrete strategic proposal, if not from the Frelimo Party—which has long stopped to be a united political organization—then from one of its more influential factions.

As much as the factual content of the aforesaid news item might be open to discussion, the fact is that it contains a viable idea, reflecting the views of a society gradually shedding its fears and opening to pluralism. Ultimately, it is the ideological "concept", far more than circumstantial factors, which prevails upon the intended targets.

The idea of a fusion, of effectively returning to a one-party "democracy" has thus been put on the table by those who told the aforementioned "lie". If we think that is impossible, we just have to look at what is happening in neighboring Zimbabwe. A look at the policies pursued by the Frelimo Party and the government allow one to identify a faction which supports, and another which rejects, not so much the joining together of the two parties as the absorption of Renamo by Frelimo, with the former totally losing its identity and political space to the latter. The faction rejecting this policy would rather follow the path of constant confrontation, even provocation, looking for a thoughtless response that will give it the right to apply the "fatal blow" that will be given legitimacy by the international community. Either way, what is at stake is a form of "reparation" for the inferiority complexes arising from being called "armed bandits", who are now enjoying a similar sociological status and, as time passes, might be replacements and gain legitimate access to Frelimo's hitherto never shared power. That strategic bifurcation by the Frelimo Party arises from Chissano's acceptance of a common "knot" and it pervades the whole of Mozambique's recent history, especially after the October 1994 elections. In

forming the government—and, therefore, in choosing the people who serve as vehicles for the policies decided at any given time by the party's dominant forces—there have been differences all the way between the "exclusivist" and the "absorptionist" factions, and the former has been scoring points against Chissano's own declared wishes.

This helps explain the 100 percent Frelimo government that has emerged after public half-promises to the contrary by the president of the Republic. This explains how provenly incompetent ministers who are clearly out of tune with the new political situation have been kept in their posts. It also enlightens one as to why the party's "heavyweights" have been transferred to the Assembly of the Republic. Meanwhile, we see the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces, FADM, with a joint Frelimo-Renamo command and forces, kept on the sidelines in the military barracks. The FADM forces have been reduced to appearing rather than being. They have no resources, nothing to do, and no powers to intervene. The Republic of Mozambique Police [PRM] were given the conditions early on to become the country's real army. The PRM have exorbitant resources and weapons totally out of keeping with their ineffectiveness in discharging their specific duties. It is here that we find the real key to the apparent enigma of keeping in the cabinet a minister who has been contested and rejected by all

social sectors. The police force is the regime's reserve defense. Its principal function is more to defend it from any action perceived to destabilize the country than to provide for the safety of our citizens.

In the final analysis, perhaps the present climate of insecurity is being encouraged to create a situation whereby it would be justifiable to institute exceptional measures against Renamo, which would once again become the scapegoat for the government's failures.

Meanwhile, the "tune" has been different in the Assembly, if one is to judge by the ongoing session. Rather bizarre seminars are being held to train deputies, and Frelimo has worked to seduce the more fragile members of the opposition's benches as part of its "absorptionist" strategy. Its aim is quite clearly to deactivate the Assembly, which is still greatly hamstrung by the Constitution anyway, but which could prove to be too strong a critical observer of the government's moves, thus having a negative impact on the ruling party's electoral image. With some of its deputies already listening to the mermaid-like chants of the "other" Frelimo faction, Renamo would do well to apply its "resistance" stance to the full to safeguard its very political existence on two fronts. Should it fail, its demise will signal the premature death of democracy in our country.



## The Gambia

### Senegal Ties 'Souring' Over Border Problems

AB1804200095 London BBC World Service in English  
1705 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on African" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the nine months since the Army seized power in The Gambia, diplomatic links between Gambia and Senegal have seemed fairly healthy. Senegal was the first country to be visited by Captain Jammeh after the coup, and Senegal's President Diouf was one of the first to recognize the AFPRC [Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council] regime. But now, it looks as if the honeymoon is over. From Banjul, Ibrahima Sesay of the Gambian DAILY OBSERVER faxed us this report:

Relations between Gambia and Senegal appear to be getting worse, and the root of the problem appears to be Senegal's continuing closure of its border with Gambia. The souring of relations became apparent when Capt. Jammeh told visiting Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse last week that the Senegalese were not keeping their part of an agreement made in September to resume trade and cross-border activities.

At a tete-a-tete in his office Jammeh told Niasse: We cannot claim that we are cooperating with each other when this border problem persists. So, let us show political will and implement what we agreed in the interests of our people. Niasse, who came to Banjul in a private jet on a mission which, he said, was aimed at regularizing the situation, claimed that there had never been a government's directive to close the border. He claimed that the border problems were a result of misunderstandings between commercial operators. At the same time, the Senegalese foreign minister expressed concern over reports that Casamance rebels are being trained in The Gambia, an allegation refuted by Capt. Jammeh.

## Liberia

### UN: Frequent Massacres Occurring Nationwide

AB1804132295 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, April 18 (AFP)—A massacre of at least 62 people in southeast Liberia on April 9 is just one of a series of alleged killings currently under investigation, UN sources said in the capital Tuesday [18 April].

General Daniel Opande, the head of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), said the organisation is also looking into at least two other massacres reported within the last ten days.

The death toll of 62 for the April 9 massacre at Yosi could be an underestimate, he added, as survivors claimed another nine bodies were left behind in the bush.

Other massacres since reported then include an incident at Sinje, 60 kilometres (35 miles) northwest of Monrovia, which has been blamed by survivors on United Liberation Movement (ULIMO) fighters.

Another at Todee, 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of the capital has been blamed on Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front (NPFL).

These incidents could account for dozens more civilian deaths, Opande said, although UNOMIL has so far been unable to confirm neither reported death figures nor who carried out the killings.

According to survivors' reports, the Yosi killings took place on the evening of April 9. A total of 195 people were rounded up by fighters at the town, 50 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of the Liberian capital, at a place called Compound Four.

Many are believed to have escaped into the bush. According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), which condemned the killings in a statement issued in Geneva on Tuesday, 10 injured people arrived in Buchanan some three days later.

More are still turning up at the port, 90 kilometres (55 miles) southeast of Monrovia.

Several survivors were evacuated by helicopter to Monrovia late last week. They have been interviewed and have blamed NPFL fighters for the killings, Opande said.

"The stories that we have received from all the people who have been evacuated from there are consistent," Opande said.

None of the dead or injured showed bullet wounds, he added, and most of the killings appeared to have been carried out with machetes.

Opande added that he had flown by helicopter to Taylor's headquarter town of Gbarnga, 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Monrovia, last Thursday and broached the alleged massacre by the warlord's forces.

"He promised he would investigate," Opande said.

UNICEF's spokesman in Abidjan, Moncef Bouhafa, said the first reports of the massacre came via the organisation's office in Buchanan. He added that the figure of 62 dead was almost certainly an under-estimate.

The area has been disputed between Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front (NPFL) and the rival Liberia Peace Council (LPC) militia of George Boley and has changed hands several times.

It is believed that the village may have just have changed hands when the massacre occurred.

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A summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is scheduled to open in the Nigerian capital Abuja on May 10 to discuss the failing Liberian peace process.

All seven Liberian factions signed a peace accord in Accra, Ghana on December 21 under which a new ruling council was to be set up by January 11 to rule the country until elections proposed for November.

But disputes about the council's membership have led to a three-month delay in setting it up, while fighting has reerupted between the LPC and NPFL in the southeast of the country and the two rival wings of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO) in western Liberia, despite a ceasefire which came into force on December 28.

The war, which has claimed over 150,000 lives, began in December 1989 as a rebellion by the NPFL against the bloodstained regime of former President Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death by an NPFL splinter group nine months later in Monrovia.

## Niger

### Opposition Threatens To Boycott Parliament

AB2004104395 London BBC World Service in English  
0615 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A row has broken out in the parliament in Niger between supporters of President Mahamane Ousmane and the opposition. The president's supporters, who are in the minority, stormed out of parliament and have threatened to boycott its work. They say they are being unfairly treated by the opposition National Movement of the Development Society, MNSD, which won a majority in elections in January. The two sides have begun talks to try to resolve the crisis.

## Nigeria

### Oil Minister, Iranian Ambassador on Cooperation

AB2004093695 Lagos NTA Television Network in English  
2000 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for petroleum, Dr. Kabiru Chafe, has called for closer cooperation between Nigeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in furtherance of the memorandum of understanding signed between both countries in 1988. Dr. Kabiru Chafe told the Iranian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Taherian-Mobarakeh, that Nigeria is appreciative of the support and cooperation which Iran has given to her, especially, in this period of transition to democratic rule. [passage indistinct]

The Iranian ambassador said his country is ready for closer ties with Nigeria in the areas of technology and trade. He said that Iran is pleased with the mediatory

role played by Nigeria during the crisis of last year in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC. Correspondent Ernest Anaoyo reports that the stalemate in the election of a new secretary general for OPEC was resolved through Nigeria's offer of a compromise candidate, in the person of Dr. Rilwan Lukman.

### Radio on Abacha Interview, Coup Plot

AB1804200495 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English  
1800 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of state, General Sani Abacha, has declared as false impressions being peddled abroad that freedom of Nigerians were impaired. Gen. Abacha, who was speaking this evening on a foreign television station, CNN, said that Nigerians were free and fair and were pursuing their legitimate duties without hindrance. He said that there was freedom of expression in Nigeria. The head of state said that the process of democratization was on course, adding that as soon as the constitutional conference completed its work, its report will be studied by government and, when adopted, a political program would be announced—a program he explained, that should culminate in the election of a civilian president.

Gen. Abacha declared an attempt to trivialize the uncovered coup attempt suggests that there was no coup plot. He said that Nigeria was lucky that the coup plot was uncovered in time as the consequences of any attempt to destabilize the country would have been enormous and unfortunate. When asked about impressions in some quarters that the Nigerian military were being dominated by a section of the country, Gen. Abacha said that such a claim was spurious and wrong.

## Senegal

### French Troops Join Hunt for Missing Couples

AB2004091795 Paris AFP in English 0216 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dakar, April 20 (AFP)—Senegalese and French Army troops on Wednesday [19 April] entered two villages in the Casamance region of south Senegal but failed to locate two French couples who have been missing for almost two weeks, authoritative sources said here.

They said the operation targeted Babonda, near the border with Guinea-Bissau, and Bofa Bayot, three kilometers (two miles) further north.

The troops were acting on information that Claude and Catherine Cave and Jean-Paul and Martine Gagnaire had been spotted in the two villages, both of which were discovered to have been abandoned.

The two communities are close to territory occupied by the Senegalese Army, which has been battling rebels in the Casamance Democratic Forces Movement.

Investigators suspect the two couples were kidnapped by movement dissidents who are hostile to a ceasefire signed with the government July 8, 1993.

If their presence in the villages is confirmed it would mean that their captors had been forced to move north toward Zignachor, the capital of the Casamance, and from where the two couples set out on April 6, the day of their disappearance.

Witnesses said they had entered a park 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Zignachor.

Investigators said the deployment of a thousand Senegalese troops in the part could explain a decision by the kidnappers to retreat further north.

### Sierra Leone

#### 'Peace Conference' Begins Without Government

AB1904211795 London BBC World Service in English  
1705 GMT 19 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A peace conference has been going on this week in Sierra Leone. It is the first such meeting to discuss the civil war with RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels that nobody seems to be able to end. The theme of the conference is Peace for Sierra Leone, life can be better. It is organized jointly by the Feed the Homeless Group and the National League for Human Rights. On the line to Freetown, Matthew Tostevin asked Opti Kande of Feed the Homeless how the conference had been going:

[Begin recording] [Kande] The conference is very hot as I am speaking because we have other people who are coming out with some facts about what is really going on because we have the traditional chiefs, we have displaced people who are right now giving us an insight of what is really happening because there were some hidden agendas. We are getting all the facts now.

[Tostevin] And what is really coming out of the conference so far?

[Kande] Well, one is like a group, PANAFUL [expansion unknown], called that we should have a government of national unity. We had the NCCPU [expansion unknown] which came up yesterday that there should be an immediate election in this country.

[Tostevin] And what about the government? What have they said about your conference?

[Kande] Well, when I came two weeks ago, I held a meeting with them and I discussed with them. I think they accepted it in good faith because they want peace now in this country.

[Tostevin] Are they taking part in it?

[Kande] We invited them but we did not see anybody. We did not see them. Their seat is still empty.

[Tostevin] And what about the rebels, the RUF, did you invite them as well?

[Kande] Yes, we invited them. They told us that they would be just in touch with us by fax and we are waiting for the fax so that we can read it to the conference.

[Tostevin] Then in actual, you have not heard from either the government or the rebels?

[Kande] Yes, we haven't heard from the rebels as yet. We will be meeting the government side on Friday [21 April], asking them if they will be willing to sit down and talk with the RUF.

[Tostevin] Well, if the rebels and the government aren't actually playing any part in this conference, what good is it actually going to do?

[Kande] Well, I think what we are really after here is to get a platform wherein we will get a declaration and that we will be reading tomorrow. We'll present one to the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] and we will present one to the RUF. It is at that platform that we will be calling both the NPRC and the RUF to a round table conference very soon. [end recording]

[Later in the same "Focus on Africa" program, the announcer reports: "And a post script to that story about the peace conference which is going on in Sierra Leone. The RUF rebel movement has just called us up to deny that they were even invited to attend it."]



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